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EXAMINER

COLBERT, ELLA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/547,191

**Applicant(s)**

NORI ET AL.

**Examiner**

Ella Colbert

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34, 38-41 and 43-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 and 38-40 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41 and 43-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-34, 38-41, and 43-46 are pending. Claims 38, 41, 43, and 44 appear to have been amended and claim 42 has been canceled in this communication filed 12/27/04 as RCE and Amendment.
2. Claims 1-34 still remain allowed for the reasons here below and amended claims 38-40 are also allowable.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

3. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/27/04 has been entered.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-34 now renumbered 1-34 are allowable in light of the Applicants' arguments and claims 38-40 are also allowable in view of Applicants' amendment to the claims and in light of the prior art made of record.
5. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The present Application has been thoroughly reviewed. Upon searching a variety of databases, the Examiner respectfully submits that –reading data from one or more rows of the set of one or more tables, wherein the one or more rows do not store an object id used for modeling the data in the one or more rows as an object that

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belongs to the object class, reading database metadata that defines how to derive object ids from values in one or more columns, and generating in the manner defined by the database metadata, an object id derived from one or more values in the one or more columns in the one or more rows –in a method of independent claim 1, reading first database metadata that indicates how to generate a column object from one or more columns and reading a first set of data from the one or more columns of a plurality of rows from the set of one or more tables, wherein the second database metadata defines the one or more tables, wherein the second database metadata does not specify how to generate the column object from the one or more columns of independent claim 7, database metadata that indicates how to derive object ids from values in one or more columns and a set of one or more tables, the set of one or more tables containing one or more rows, wherein the one or more rows do not store an object id for modeling the data in the one or more rows as an object that belongs to the object class – a system of independent claim 16, first database metadata that defines how to generate a column object from one or more columns and second database metadata that defines the one or more tables, wherein the second database metadata does not specify how to generate the column object from the one or more columns –a system of independent claim 19, a computer readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for presenting data from a set of one or more tables as a set of objects that belong to an object class, wherein the execution of the one or more sequences of the one or more instructions causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of reading data from one or more rows of the set of one or more tables, wherein the one or

more rows do not store an object id used for modeling the data in the one or more rows as an object that belongs to the object class and reading database metadata that defines how to derive object ids from values in one or more columns in independent claim 20 and a computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for presenting, as an object, data from a set of one or more tables residing in one or more database, wherein the execution of the one or more sequences of the one or more instructions causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of reading first database metadata that defines how to generate a column object from one or more columns and reading a first set of data from the one or more columns of a plurality of rows from the set of one or more tables, wherein second database metadata defines the one or more tables, wherein the second database metadata does not specify how to generate the column object from the one or more columns in independent claim 26, is not taught by the prior art of record (PTO-892, 1449).

Therefore, all pending claims are hereby allowed.

Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant is encouraged to submit formal drawings in response to this Office Action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Claim Objections***

6. Claim 40 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 40 recites as follows: "40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, further including the steps of: ...". This claim should read as follows: "40. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 39, further including the steps of: ...". Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 41 and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (W0 96/34350) Althoff et al, hereafter Althoff

With respect to claim 41, Althoff teaches, The method performed by a database server, the method comprising the steps of: the database server executing a query statement that conforms to a query language and that references an object view as if the object view were a table (Page 11, lines 15-20, Page 14, line 21-Page 15, line 7, Page 23, line 11-Page 27, line 30, Fig. 2, Fig. 7, and Fig. 8); wherein metadata for a database (page 8, line 3-Page 9, line and Page 10, lines 1-8): defines the object view as a presentation of data as a set of objects in the database, and indicates that data for the object view is in one or more tables of the database, the one or more tables including at

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least one relational table (Page 11, line 23- Page 12, line 24); and wherein executing the query statement includes reading data from one or more rows of the one or more tables indicated by the metadata that defines said object view (Page 14, lines 21-25); and presenting said data from the one or more rows as objects that reside in said database (Page 14, lines 27-32). Althoff did not specifically teach, an object view. However Althoff does teach presentation of the query model to the user and it is assumed the query model contains objects of a class. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have an object view and to modify in Althoff because such a modification would allow Althoff to have a view of the table with the object classes and searchable properties (class property functions).

With respect to claim 43 this dependent claim is rejected for the similar rationale as given above for claim 41.

With respect to claim 44, Althoff teaches, The method of claim 41, wherein said query statement specifies an operation for manipulating data in said database (Page 12, lines 18-24, Page 13, lines 11-15, and Page 14, lines 22-32).

With respect to claim 45, Althoff teaches, The method of claim 41, wherein said query language is PL/SQL (Page 18, lines 14-18).

With respect to claim 46, Althoff teaches, The method of claim 41, wherein said query language is SQL (Page 22, lines 15-19).

### ***Response to Arguments***

9. Applicants' arguments filed 12/27/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Issue no. 1: Applicants' argue: Althoff does not discuss object ids has been considered but is not persuasive. Response: This argument is considered moot in view of the allowance of claim 38 above.

Issue no. 2: Applicants' argue: the claim limitation of claim 41 "executing a query statement that conforms to a query language and that references an object view as if the object view were a table, where metadata defines the object view as a presentation of data as a set of objects in the database" has been considered but is not persuasive. Response: The Applicants' argument appears to be their amendment to claim 41. Also this claims 41 and 43-46 constitute restrictable subject matter. Claims 1-34 and 38-40 do not contain any claim limitations reciting "... executing a query statement that conforms to a query language ..., wherein executing the query statement includes: ..." in claim 41 and "said query statement ...; and ... query statement ..." in claim 43. Suggestion: It is suggested to either cancel these claims or to add the query features to the other allowed independent claims with the allowable subject matter as set forth above in the reasons for allowance.

### **Inquiries**

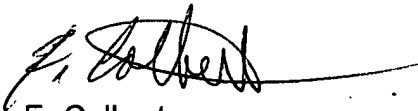
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 703-308-7064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30AM-5:00PM.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 703-308-1038. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Colbert', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

E. Colbert  
March 28, 2005